Saskatchewan Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Annual Report 1984-1985

May 22, 1985

The Honourable Patricia A. Smith
Minister Responsible for the
Status of Women
Room 361, Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I am pleased to submit to you this Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Because the present Council was appointed in November, 1983, this document relates our activities from that time until April, 1985.

On behalf of the members of the Council, I would like to thank you for your help and co-operation during this first portion of our three-year term. We are looking forward to increased activity during 1985-86.

Sincerely,

Terry Newman

Terry Newman
Acting Chairperson

SASKATCHEWAN
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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The Council's Mandate

The Saskatchewan Advisory Council on the Status of Women advises the provincial government on matters affecting the status of women. Council's mandate includes the following activities:

- identifying current concerns related to the status of women and bringing them to the government's attention
- developing recommendations for improving the status of women in Saskatchewan
- conducting research projects to study problems and find potential solutions
- meeting with groups and individuals to seek their views

The Council reports to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Honourable Patricia A. Smith. Research findings and recommendations are presented to the Minister who, in turn, submits them to the government for consideration.

Advisory Council Members

Members of the Advisory Council are appointed by the provincial government. The present Council members were appointed in November, 1983, for a three-year term. They come from various fields of expertise and from different geographical regions of the province, reflecting the diversity of Saskatchewan and the wide range of views. For the first time since an Advisory Council was established in 1974, representatives from major women's groups across the province were selected as Council members.

Current members are:

Terry Newman
Acting Chairperson
1508 - 3520 Hillsdale Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 5Z5

Jenny Baillie
343 Athabasca Street West
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
S6H 2C1

Cornell Beuker
P. O. Box 251
Leoville, Saskatchewan
SOJ 1NO

Fern Foster
332 - 21st Street West
Prince Albert,
Saskatchewan
SOV 4J3

Betty Kissoon
118 Stillwater Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7J 3N8

Estelle Matthews
75 Mayfair Crescent
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 4H6

Joan Bens
Box 217
Biggar, Saskatchewan
SOK OMO

Earlia Folbar
1407 Southam Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4T 6X6

Clare Gitzel
839 Coppermine Crescent
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7K 4K9

Eileen Lillico
2116 - 6th Avenue West
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
S5V 5K6

Ivy McVicar
Box 61
Prairie River, Saskatchewan
SOE 1JO

Mary Muir
206 - 2nd Avenue West
Kindersley, Saskatchewan
S9L 1SO

Bill Prentice
c/o Swift Current School
Board
600 Chaplin Street East
Swift Current, Saskatchewan
S9H 1J3

Ivy Scales
Box 447
Cupar, Saskatchewan
SOG OYO

Dorlas Young
Box 277
Vanguard, Saskatchewan
SON 2VO

Several members appointed in November, 1983, resigned during 1984-85 because of other commitments. These include Bill Ogden, Marjorie Gerwing, and Adeleine Morris. Glenis Joyce, who served as Chairperson of the Council from November, 1983, resigned her appointment in April, 1985.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Council Meetings

Because members of the Advisory Council are from towns and cities across the province, regular meetings are an important activity. The following is a list of meetings held to the end of March 31, 1985:

Date	Place
January 6-7, 1984	Saskatoon
January 14, 1984	Regina*
February 11-12, 1984	Regina
February 27, 1984	Regina*
March 23-25, 1984	Prince Albert
April 14, 1984	Saskatoon*
June 15-16, 1984	Yorkton*
August 7-8, 1984	Saskatoon*
September 14-15, 1984	Regina
November 17, 1984	Regina*
April 2, 1985	Regina*
April 12, 1985	Regina

* Denotes meeting of Executive Committee.
Others are meetings of the full Council.

Conferences

During 1984-85, the Advisory Council sent representatives to the following major conferences and meetings:

- Joint Advisory Councils on the Status of Women Meeting, Toronto
- Annual Conference of Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Advisory Councils in Canada Meeting, Quebec City
- "Helping Ourselves" Conference on Women's Health, Regina
- "Education and Training for Women in Saskatchewan" Meeting, Regina
- "Single Parent Women and Post-Secondary Education" Conference, Saskatoon
- Consultation Meeting on Family Violence, Regina
- Saskatchewan Child Care Conference in Prince Albert

Committees

The Advisory Council considers the following matters to be priority concerns, and has established committees to gather research and formulate recommendations:

- Children Having Children
- Violence in the Home
- Sexual Abuse of Children
- Technological Change
- Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value
- Law Reform Commission's Proposed Changes to Matrimonial Property Act
- Women's Representation on Government Boards and Commissions
- Human Rights Hearings
- Daycare in Saskatchewan
- Enforcement of Maintenance

Research

A major topic of importance to women throughout 1984-85 was the Matrimonial Property Act. This Act provides for division of property between spouses in the event of a divorce. Changes proposed by the Law Reform Commission following a review of the current legislation prompted the Advisory Council to research the proposals and their implications for married women in the province. The Council has prepared a guide to the Matrimonial Property Act which outlines the present legislation as well as the proposed changes.

An area of great interest to Council members has been the problems of adolescents. Accordingly, during 1984, the Council initiated a research project into challenges facing adolescent females. Preliminary findings indicate that, for a number of reasons, young females often fail to set personal goals or develop career aspirations. Research is continuing on this topic.

During 1984, family violence emerged as a major concern. Advisory Council members conducted a survey on the incidence of wife battering, and formed two committees -- a Committee on Violence in the Home, and a Committee on the Sexual Abuse of Children -- to investigate these problems in our province. The Advisory Council participated in the day-long Consultation on Family Violence sponsored by the Women's Secretariat.

Boards and Commissions

In the past, few women have participated on councils, boards, commissions or committees. This has been the case for both government and non-government groups. In an attempt to improve the representation of women on these decision-making bodies, the Advisory Council, in co-operation with the Women's Secretariat, designed and distributed resume forms to women's groups and professional associations throughout Saskatchewan. Qualified women interested in serving on government-appointed boards and commissions were invited to fill out the forms and return them so that they could be considered for upcoming appointments.

Pornography

During 1984, the federal Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution held public hearings across Canada to gather input regarding these problems. The members of the Advisory council expressed their concern about pornography and prostitution through letters and briefs to the Committee.

Other Issues

In addition to those items listed above as priority matters for the Council to address, preliminary discussion and work has begun on other topics such as homemaker's pensions, women's access to credit, abuse of the elderly, affirmative action, the Charter of Rights, and health concerns of women.